




~ Discover Massachusetts State Parks ~
**Visitors Guide to
Free Family-Friendly Programs
February Vacation Week
February 19 – 27, 2022**

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Guide to
Free
Family-
Friendly
Programs**

**February
Vacation
Week**

2022

Share your adventures!

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#MassDCR @MassDCR

Fresh air and family fun are the perfect combination for your February Vacation Week plans. Come out and play in your Massachusetts State Parks and enjoy a fantastic array of family friendly programs and experiences for all ages. Enjoy guided experiences or create a park adventure on your own. There is so much to enjoy and explore in your state parks. **Come for a visit!**

Following, please find a listing of Guided Programs, Visitor Center Special Exhibits, self guided experiences, and ongoing resources. For more information please visit us online at [Department of Conservation & Recreation | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/department-of-conservation-and-recreation). For DCR's adaptive program schedule please [click here](#) for the complete schedule and programs during February Vacation week are noted with an * below.

Things to know before you go:

- All programs are free unless noted.
- Please be aware parking fees may apply – visit the park web page for applicable [parking fees at Massachusetts State Parks](#) or to [learn how to borrow a ParksPass from a community partner](#).
- Be season smart and safe. Dress for the weather by wearing sturdy footwear and dressing in layers for maximum comfort.
- Carry drinking water and snacks. Have a map and cell phone.
- Seasonal weather including extreme cold temperatures and storms affect parks and trails. All events, programs and activities are subject to change. Please take a moment to call ahead to confirm.
- Please follow all current COVID-19 guidelines. Visitors are required to wear face coverings while indoors.
- February Vacation Programs are listed by geographical region, date and time.

Activities and Programs

Boston Region

***Leo J Martin Ski Track**, 190 Park Rd, Weston

Friday, February 25, 10-11am, 11:30am-12:30pm, and 1:00-2:00pm

Enjoy winter adventures at Leo J. Martin Ski Track in Weston with Waypoint Adventure and Charles River Recreation. Trails at the Ski Track are groomed daily and snow is made on site. On the snow, we'll provide instruction and training on equipment: we have snow-shoes and cross-country skis for upright fun. We also have equipment to sit-down such as high-performance sit-skis and we can help push you on a kick-sled or push ski-sled. Adaptive equipment, instruction, and support are provided, and we can customize and modify equipment to fit your needs! Cost: Suggested: \$20/participant, \$0 family/caregiver/staff (contact [Waypoint Adventure](#) to adjust cost: no one is turned away!)

Pre-register with Waypoint Adventure, either [online](#) or by calling (781) 325-7980. Please come dressed warmly for winter temperatures, which may be as cold as 10 degrees Fahrenheit. This is a windy location.

There are indoor accessible bathrooms, but there is no indoor seating, no indoor warming area, and no sale of food items this year.

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St, Boston

Saturday, Feb 20, Tuesday, Feb 24, & Saturday, Feb 26, 10:00-1:00pm

Our Animal Neighbors

Join us for a Bingo scavenger hunt on the Roxbury Heritage State Park grounds to learn about some of Roxbury's furry and feathery inhabitants! Plus, a Take-and-Make art activity! Program appropriate for ages 4 and up. Please call for weather check. Drop-ins welcome, but pre-registration recommended; please call (857) 399-1220 or email roxbury.heritage@mass.gov. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany all children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. Program meets outside in the park.

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St, Boston

Wednesday, February 23 & Friday, February 25, 10:00am-12:00pm

Colonial Play Time

What do you get when you mix tic-tac-toe and checkers? Nine-Men's-Morris, an ancient board game played during colonial times! Learn how to play this and other fun games popular in the 1700s. Take home simple instructions for making your own games. Suitable for ages 6 and up. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany all children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For more information, please call 857-399-1225 or email roxbury.heritage@mass.gov. Meet inside.

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St, Boston
Thursday February 24- Sunday February 27, 3:00-4:00pm
Guided Tour: *One Roxbury, Many Stories*

This 60-minute tour highlights events, people, and objects from the exhibit. Suitable for ages 12 and up. Please call (857) 399-1220 or email roxbury.heritage@mass.gov to schedule group tours. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany all children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For more information, please call 857-399-1225 or email roxbury.heritage@mass.gov. Meet inside.

Central Massachusetts

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Monday, February 21, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Bark, Bark, Bark!

Join a park interpreter on a leisurely trail walk at Mount Wachusett to learn how to use bark to identify common species of deciduous and coniferous trees. As an added bonus, we will point out characteristics of rare old-growth trees to help you learn how to recognize these treasures. Ages 10 and up. This is an outdoor program at the visitor center. Suitable for ages 10 and above.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Tuesday, February 22, 10:00am - 11:00am

Snow Mysteries

Join us to solve the mysteries of animal tracks at Wachusett Mountain. Be sure to dress warmly and wear winter boots and bring snowshoes if you have them. You may call the visitor center ahead of time for an update on snow conditions. If there is no snow this will be an indoor presentation on animal tracks. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Tuesday, February 22, 2:00pm - 2:30pm

A Peak Back in Time

Come journey with us to Wachusett's past. We will learn about our geologic history, the last ice age, the Native American Nipmuc people who inhabited this area, the fascinating summit houses that once stood on top of the mountain, the historic Civilian Conservation Corps era, the Hurricane of '38, the legend of Lucy Keyes, and much more.

This program takes place in the visitor center. Appropriate for ages 8 and above.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,
Princeton

Friday, February 25, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Snowshoe Fun

Come join us in a new tradition at the mountain! This will be an easy 1.5-hour stroll along Wachusett's trails. Bring your own snowshoes and a sense of adventure. If there is no snow, we will hike instead. Afterwards, we will warm up by our fireplace in the Visitor Center. Meet at the Visitor Center. Suitable for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. This outdoor program will cover approximately one mile over easy terrain.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,
Princeton

Saturday, February 26, 10:00am - 11:30am

Snow Mysteries

Join us to solve the mysteries of animal tracks at Wachusett Mountain. Be sure to dress warmly and wear winter boots and bring snowshoes if you have them. You may call the visitor center ahead of time for an update on snow conditions. If there is no snow this will be an indoor presentation on animal tracks. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,
Princeton

Sunday, February 27, 10:00am - 11:30am

Snow Mysteries

Did you know that our area is home to over 50 species of mammals? Discover the fascinating lives of the "locals" as we talk about wildlife habitats, competition, and survival on Wachusett Mountain. We will show you the skins, skulls, and tracks of some of our native animals, including northeastern coyotes, deer, moose, bobcats, and bears. This program takes place at the visitor center. Appropriate for ages 5 and above.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,
Princeton

Sunday, February 27, 1:00pm - 1:30pm

The Forest Before Us

Can't see the forest for the trees? We can help! Join us as we talk about forest growth from the last glacial period to the present. A special feature is an overview of the unique and rare old growth forests of Wachusett Mountain, with a wide variety of trees that are several hundred years old. This program takes place at the visitor center. Appropriate for ages 10 and above.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Sunday, February 27, 2:00pm - 2:30pm

Mountain Wild! Live

Did you know that our area is home to over 50 species of mammals?

Discover the fascinating lives of the “locals” as we talk about wildlife habitats, competition, and survival on Wachusett Mountain. We will show you the skins, skulls, and tracks of some of our native animals, including northeastern coyotes, deer, moose, bobcats, and bears.

This program takes place at the visitor center. Appropriate for ages 5 and above.

Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 8, Parking near intersection of Cross Street and Route 70, Boylston

Saturday, February 19, 10:00am-12:00pm

Watershed Ranger Program: Cabin Fever Snowshoe Hike

Watershed Rangers will lead the program to explore the wooded winter wonderland on easy to moderate terrain, about 2.5 miles. Bring your own snowshoes and dress for the weather. If there is little to no snow, it will be a hike instead so wear sturdy boots. All ages welcome. For more information or to check status during inclement weather, please

email Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov or call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 22, Route 140 West Boylston. GPS address 167 Temple Street, West Boylston

Tuesday, Feb 22, 1:00-2:30pm

Winter Habitat Hike

Discover the wildlife of the watershed and search for different types of habitats. Think like an animal as we look for cozy winter resting places.

Dress for the weather, wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring trekking poles, ice cleats, or snowshoes depending on trail condition. About 1 mile moderate walk. All ages welcome on this family-friendly hike. Hike may be canceled or modified for weather and trail conditions. For more information or to check status, please email Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov or call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 39 North Dike. Parking at the intersection of South Meadow Road and Route 110, Clinton

Saturday, February 26, 10:00am -12:00pm

Earth, Wind and Water Hike

Take in views of the Wachusett Reservoir and hike along an earthen dam to the Wachusett Reservoir masonry dam. About 3 miles round trip. All ages welcome on this family-friendly hike. Hike may be canceled or modified for weather and trail conditions. For more information or to check status, please email Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov or call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 22, Route 140 West Boylston. GPS address 167 Temple Street, West Boylston

Saturday, February 26, 1:00-2:00pm

Bark and Buds Winter Trees

Can you identify trees in winter? The Wachusett Reservoir is surrounded by a diverse forest that protects the drinking water. Take this opportunity to get outdoors, become a nature detective, and match up buds and bark. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy hiking shoes. About .5 mile slow-paced walk. All ages welcome on this family-friendly hike. Hike may be canceled or modified for weather and trail conditions. For more information or to check status, please email Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov or call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

***Wendell State Forest**, 392 Wendell Rd, Millers Falls

Saturday, February 26, 11:00am-3:00pm

Enjoy the winter woods with All Out Adventures! Activities include outdoor ice skating, cross-country skiing, sit-skiing, gentle sled hockey games, kick sledding, snowshoeing, and hiking (as weather conditions permit). Meet us at the Wendell State Forest Headquarters when you arrive! Bring a lunch and warm up around the fire before heading out on the trails with a group. Please note that there is no running water and no indoor restroom. A portable toilet is available.

Pre-registration is required. [Register online](#) or call (413) 584-2052 for more details or if you prefer to register via phone.

Suggested donation: \$5/person

Northeastern Massachusetts

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, 1399 Bennington St., East Boston

MBTA: Blue line to Beachmont Station. Free parking available in the paved lot.

Saturday, February 19, 7:30am - 8:30am

An Oasis for Birds

Explore DCR's Belle Isle Marsh & vicinity, which are known birding hotspots with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Appropriate for Adults and Teens. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club and the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. Note that this program meets every month of the year on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month except when occurring on State or National Holidays. For more information, Contact Matthew Nash at 781-656-1485 or Matthew.Nash@mass.gov.

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, 1399 Bennington St., East Boston
MBTA: Blueline to Beachmont Station. Free parking available in the paved lot.

Wednesday, February 23, 1:00pm - 2:00pm & 2:15pm – 3:15pm
Winter Wildlife Detectives

Can you imagine living outside the entire winter like the coyotes do at Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston? Join a DCR Park Interpreter as we explore the trails of the Marsh searching for signs (tracks, scat and chews) left by the wild creatures that are active during the winter. Appropriate for all ages. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. For more information, Contact Matthew Nash at 781-656-1485 or Matthew.Nash@mass.gov.

Halibut Point State Park, Gott Avenue at Rte 127, Rockport

Saturday, February 20th, 8:00am - 10:00am

Seaside Birding Stroll

Stroll our seaside treasure with birding basics. Listen for bird calls, watch the woodlands and water's edge, and enjoy extraordinary views of the ocean, bay, and beyond. For all ages. Meet at parking lot.

Lawrence Heritage State Park, One Jackson Street, Lawrence

Wednesday, February 23, 10:30-11:30am

Kidleidoscope

A fun program for ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Program includes a story and activity. Whenever possible, activities will be outdoors, meeting in the adjacent Visitor Center courtyard. In case of bad weather, activities will be in the Community Room, with social distancing. No shared materials/items. Siblings and friends welcome.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord

Sunday, Feb 20, Monday, Feb 21, & Sunday, Feb 27, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Winter Tree Identification

Join a Park Interpreter for an introduction to winter tree identification at Walden Pond. We will head out on the trail to examine characteristics such as growth form and bark patterns of our native tree species. Dress for the weather, with warm clothing and appropriate footwear. Meet at Visitor Center.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord

Wednesday, February 23, 10:00am - 11:30am

De-Mystifying Thoreau

Debunk many myths and rumors about renowned writer / naturalist, Henry David Thoreau, with a Park Interpreter. Meet at the Thoreau house replica.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord

Thursday, February 24, 10:00am - 11:30am

Thoreau's Tiny House

Discover how Thoreau's "experiment in deliberate living" made him an early "Tiny House Movement" advocate. Meet at the Thoreau house replica.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord
Monday, February 21 & Wednesday, February 23, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

The Beavers are Back!

Take a one-mile roundtrip walk with a Park Interpreter to secluded Heywood Meadow to learn about one of our fascinating, indigenous mammals. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for all ages.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord
Tuesday, February 22 & Thursday, February 24, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Snowflake Beauties

Drop by the visitor center to see microscopic images of snow- flakes and learn the science of snow. Create your own paper snowflake to take home. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for all ages.

Southeastern Massachusetts

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton
Sunday, February 20, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Winter Greens Walk

Join the park staff for a short walk exploring our winter trees and shrubs. We will hike through the forest, fields and near wetlands to learn and identify a few different winter greens. For all ages. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$20 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566. Meet at Visitor Center.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton
Tuesday, February 22, 11:00am - 11:30am

A Story in Stone: Exterior Mansion Tour

Who was the architect of the Ames Mansion? What is the mansion made of? Learn the story of the construction and design of the Ames Mansion on this 30-minute exterior tour (we will not be going into the mansion). Inclement weather will cancel this program. For all ages. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$20 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566. Meet in front of Ames Mansion.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton
Thursday, February 24, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Off the Beaten Path Hike

Join the Park Interpreter for a guided hike and explore the trails at Borderland. Hikes are between 2-4 miles long on varied terrain at a moderate pace. Route varies each week. For ages 16+. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$20 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. Severe and inclement weather will cancel hike, please call ahead to confirm hike is still happening at (508) 238-6566. Meet at Visitor Center.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Thursday, February 24, 11:00am - 11:30am

A Story in Stone: Exterior Mansion Tour

Who was the architect of the Ames Mansion? What is the mansion made of? Learn the story of the construction and design of the Ames Mansion on this 30-minute exterior tour (we will not be going into the mansion). Inclement weather will cancel this program. For all ages. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$20 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566. Meet in front of Ames Mansion.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Wednesday, February 23, 10:00am - 11:30am

Learn to Play Disc Golf

Want to learn how to play a fun sport? Borderland hosts a great 18-hole disc golf course. The park staff will teach you the basics of the sport and some helpful hints when throwing a disc. Pre-registration required; email Paul.Clifford@mass.gov. For ages 8+. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$20 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 27, 10:00am- 12:30pm

DCR Southeast Mass Adult Walking Club

Join the park staff for a 4.5 mile moderately paced hike to the Ridge Trail via various hilly and rocky trails. Weather conditions may alter the route. Dress for the weather and bring drinking water. For ages 16+. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol Street, Fall River

Sunday, February 20 & Sunday, February 27, 11:00am - 11:30am

Water + Granite + Gravity = Fall River

Fall River was once the third largest city in Massachusetts with thriving factories and bustling piers on its waterfront. Without the water of the Taunton and Quequechan Rivers, the granite cliffs, and the power of gravity and the waterfalls that they produced, there would be no Fall River. The Park highlights this legacy with seven distinct granite wayfinders around the park that commemorate the industry that has been here. This is a 30-minute walk through waterfront history connecting the wayfinders and can be self-guided or led by a park interpreter. Tours start at the Front Desk in the Visitor Center. Free parking in the DCR lot at 5 Water Street. For more information, call (508) 675-5759 x0.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol Street, Fall River
Sunday, February 20 & Sunday, February 27, 2:00pm - 2:30pm
People, Ambition, and Hard Work

A Portuguese American poet, a beloved local entrepreneur, a decorated military hero, and a visionary state legislator all have their names enshrined in Fall River Heritage Park. Who were these people and how did they inspire others through their vision, ambition, and hard work? This is a short walking tour of the landmarks named for these pioneers and can be self-guided or led by a park interpreter. Tours start at the Front Desk in the Visitor Center. Free parking in the DCR lot at 5 Water Street. For more information, call (508) 675-5759 x0.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol Street, Fall River
Daily, 1:00pm - 1:20pm

Film: Safe Houses: The Underground Railroad in Fall River

Discover the hidden history of Fall River and its role in the Underground Railroad. Meet abolitionist Elizabeth Buffum Chase, one of the most dynamic figures in Fall River history. See the houses and streets that welcomed escaped formerly enslaved people. Running time: 20 minutes. Visitor Center Theater. Free parking in the DCR lot at 5 Water Street. For more information, call (508) 675-5759 x0.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol Street, Fall River
Daily, 11:00am & 2:00pm

Film: The Fabric of Fall River

Discover Fall River's rich past! The Fabric of Fall River showcases the history of Fall River from the First People, through the cotton mill era to the needle trades of the 1980s. Run-time: 34 minutes. Visitor Center Theater. Free parking in the DCR lot at 5 Water Street. For more information, call (508) 675-5759 x0.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol Street, Fall River
Daily, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Film: The Fall River Line

Climb aboard and explore the premiere steamboat line in America, the Fall River Line, which ran from New York City to Fall River and was famous for its elegance, grace and superior service. Visit a bygone age, when the way you traveled was just as important as getting there. Run-time: 57 minutes. Visitor Center Theater. Free parking in the DCR lot at 5 Water Street. For more information, call (508) 675-5759 x0.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

Tuesday, February 22, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Off the Beaten Path Hike

Get some great exercise, meet other people, and explore a new trail to add to your repertoire. Shake off the winter doldrums and get outside in February. It's a post Valentine's Day Hike that's good for your heart. We'll walk down the flat and wide Quashnet River trail then head off on the relatively new Cottontail Trail which winds through the woods and learn a little bit about the trail's namesake (it's not that same bunny you always see in your yard). Then back to the main trail for a peak at the river. Dress warmly in layers, wear comfortable shoes or boots, and feel free to bring binoculars if you'd like, in case we spy any other hardy creatures out and about on a winter's afternoon. Advance registration recommended so we can contact you in case the walk is canceled due to inclement weather conditions. Please visit:

<https://waquoitbayreserve.org/event-registration/?ee=1144> to register. Meet at the Quashnet River Trailhead parking lot off Martin Road in East Falmouth.

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Sunday, February 20 1:00-3:00pm (snow date, Sunday, February 27)

Great Hall Event: A Community Remembers the Northfield Chateau

Share your own or family memories of the Northfield Chateau – from prom nights to weddings and employment. Visit with people you may know from the Chateau! Ties to an exhibit at Great Falls on Northfield Chateau from January 6- February 27. See Visitor Center section below for more information.

Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough

Saturday, February 19, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Winter Wildlife Tracking

Jim Pelletier leads a 3-hour guided wildlife tracking exploration! Journey less than 2-miles at a leisurely pace with some off-trail, rough terrain, and stream crossings. FREE. Dress for winter weather; hiking poles, traction devices for boots, or snowshoes. Trails may be snow-covered, icy, or muddy. Bring water and a snack. Inclement weather cancels. Pre-registration is required at <https://feb19-winterwildlifetracking.eventbrite.com> All Programs are free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. All programs meet at the Mount Greylock Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Please follow all current COVID guidelines. Visit [Mass.gov/COVID](https://mass.gov/COVID) for guidance. For additional information and weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Wednesday, February 23, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Geocaching 101

For all ages. Looking for a fun way to engage your tech-savvy kids with the natural world? This outdoor activity combines hiking with a tech-aided treasure hunt. Join Kathy Gwozdz and members of Berkshire Geobash to learn the basics, then head out on the trail to test out new skills. Can you find the hidden treasure? Beginners welcome! No experience or digital device necessary. To participate fully you may [download the free geocaching.com app](#) and bring your digital device. Dress appropriately for winter weather; hiking poles and traction devices for boots, or snowshoes. Trails may be snow-covered, icy, or muddy. Bring drinking water and a snack. Inclement weather cancels.

Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Thursday, February 24, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Animals in Winter

Explore how animals and birds adapt to the changing seasons. Discover which animals hibernate, migrate, or change appearance. Choose a story book, craft activity, or a take home project. Designed as a self-guided activity with intermittent sessions led by a DCR Park Interpreter. For all ages. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Friday, February 25, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Nice and Easy Trail Hike

Easy-paced, one to 3-mile guided hikes geared toward seniors, but open to all ages. Join with other hiking enthusiasts or bring the grandkids with you during school vacation week! Space is limited. Pre-registration is required at <https://feb25-niceandeasyhike.eventbrite.com> by January 27. Dress appropriately for winter weather; hiking poles and traction devices for boots, or snowshoes. Trails may be snow-covered, icy, or muddy. Bring drinking water and a snack. Inclement weather cancels.

Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Saturday, February 26, at 1:00pm

Family Friendly Outdoor Adventures

Join us for an afternoon of winter activities, including snow tubing for the little ones, a SNOWSHOE DEMO by NeviTREK Handmade Snowshoes, and a guided mindfulness walk along the Bradley Farm Trail. Be prepared for winter weather, dress in layers and wear sturdy, warm snow boots. Traction devices, trekking poles or your snowshoes are advisable for the hike. Snowshoes are available to try out during the Snowshoe Demo for ages 8 and up.

DCR Visitor Centers and Exhibits

Winter should never stop you from enjoying our State Parks! The Massachusetts' State Park system, managed and operated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, provides many year-round opportunities to learn about our rich natural and cultural history, a heritage that tells fascinating stories of the past. Recreational opportunities also abound. Below is a list of our Visitor Centers by region. Please note, some visitor centers are closed for holidays and hours can vary based on staffing and weather emergencies. Please call ahead.

Boston Region

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury Rd, Boston

Roxbury Heritage Visitor Center

Open Daily, 10:00am-5:00pm

Roxbury Heritage is home to the c1750 Dillaway-Thomas House, one of the oldest structures in Roxbury. This building served as the headquarters of the Continental Army in 1775 during the Siege of Boston. The house is now a museum with exhibits of Roxbury's past and present history. Landscaped grounds also provide visitors with an excellent view of Boston's skyline. For more information, please call 857-399-1225 or email roxbury.heritage@mass.gov.

Dillaway-Thomas Self-Guided Tours

Inside this colonial-era house, an interactive exhibit tells the story of Roxbury's evolution over three centuries. Suitable for ages 6 and up. Plus, **Rhyming Scavenger Hunt!** Fun for all ages. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany all children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For more information, please call 857-399-1225 or email roxbury.heritage@mass.gov.

Northeastern Massachusetts

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

Walden Pond Visitor Center

Open Daily, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Henry David Thoreau's legacy has rippled across the globe and is tastefully presented in exhibits and displays. Get a look at our Gold LEED-Certified, earth-friendly, energy efficient building constructed from sustainable materials. A replica of the cabin he built and lived in from 1845-1847 is located near the visitor center for public viewing. No pets are allowed within the reservation. Daily parking fee: \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$30 per vehicle for out-of-state plates. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-396-3254.

Storywalk (R) at Walden Pond

“Snowflake Bentley” by Jacqueline Briggs Martin.

Step into winter to discover the citizen scientist who taught us “no two snowflake sare alike!” This story of science and beauty is posted on the accessible Woods Path. An easy 1/2 mile trail, on a crushed stone surface, takes 15 minutes each way. No dogs or bikes on trails.

Halibut Point State Park, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport

Open Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Quarrying History at Visitor Center

Investigate working on the edge of Halibut Point! We have artifacts, photographs, the “Uncut Block” video, and quarry tools to share the Park’s history. Bring your questions and curiosity!

Military History at Halibut Point—Climb WWII Tower!

U.S. Military for coastal defense in 1944 built a watch tower and barracks—now serves as a Visitor Center. Climb the tower ladder!

Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence

Open Daily, 9:00am - 4:00pm

City of Lawrence Exhibit, Collective Voices film, and Community Gallery

Come learn about the history and development of Lawrence, Massachusetts, one of the nation’s first planned industrial cities. The 22-minute film shows on request. Visit the Gallery for temporary art and historical exhibits. Free parking and admission. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-794-1655.

Central Massachusetts

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

John Hitchcock Visitor Center

Open daily 8:00am – 3:30pm (Hours may vary based on winter staffing and weather conditions).

The Visitor Center features exhibits detailing the mountain’s unique geologic history, including the effects of the last glacial period. Exhibits also highlight Wachusett Mountain’s human history, from the Native Americans living in the area who gave the mountain its name, to the European colonists who settled the area. The Visitor Center features displays explaining the ancient trees found on the mountain, the only old-growth forest east of the Connecticut River. There is also an antique collection of preserved birds that are found in the area. Hiking trail information is available in the Visitor Center, and park staff can provide advice on routes and trail conditions; winter hikers should be equipped for snowy and icy conditions. The Visitor Center features a magnificent stone fireplace with a crackling fire to warm winter visitors. Restrooms are available in the Visitor Center during open hours. Portable toilets are available in the parking lot if the Visitor Center is closed. Free parking and admission during the winter. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-464-2987.

Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Rd, Belchertown
Open every day except Wednesdays, 8:30am - 4:30pm
Visitor Center & Exhibits

Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest unfiltered water supplies in the United States. Along with the Wachusett Reservoir and Ware River, it is the source of high quality water for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority water supply system. The 412 billion gallon reservoir covers 39 square miles with 181 miles of shoreline. Come learn about the history of the Quabbin Valley and how the reservoir was built. Also, learn about wildlife at the Quabbin and some of the research being done there. Visitors may request viewing one of several short videos about the area as well. For more information, please call 413-323-722.

Southeastern Massachusetts

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton
Open Daily, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Visitor Center "Ames Family History Gallery"

Borderland is one of the most historically significant tracts of publicly owned land in the Commonwealth. Created in the early 1900s by artist and suffragist Blanche Ames and her botanist husband Oakes, Borderland offers many of the same pleasures that the Ames family enjoyed. Learn about the family through the park's exhibits. Then enjoy the winter recreational experiences once enjoyed by this famous family at their "Borderland." A variety of self-guided walk brochures are available in the Visitor Center vestibule. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call (508) 238-6566. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee; \$20.00 for out-of-state vehicles.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol St., Fall River
Open Daily, 8:00am - 3:30pm

The Visitor Center at Fall River Heritage State Park offers insight into the City's unique past as a thriving textile center and confluence of cultures. Sit back in the comfort and warmth of the park's movie theater and watch a marathon of four films about Fall River's past from its role as the leading textile hub in America, to its critical role in the Underground Railroad leading up to the Civil War. Enjoy the majesty of the luxurious Fall River Line ships that sailed here from New York. Re-live the fun days of locals at play at everyone's favorite local amusement park. Try your hand at crafts. Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa while you enjoy the beautiful views of Battleship Cove and the waterfront. Linger in the galleries for historic photos and an exhibit on African Americans in the Civil War. There is something for everyone and it's all free! Parking is free at the adjacent DCR Lot at 5 Water Street. Accessible. For more information or directions please call (508) 675-5759, ext. 0.

Fall River Heritage State Park: Quest Activities

Daily, 8:00am – 3:30pm

Get creative! Stop by the Visitor Center, grab one of our unique coloring sheets of moments in Fall River History. Try your hand at origami or even weave a row on our community loom. If you complete an entire row, you too can add your name tag! This is a drop-in program. Stay for the duration or drop in for a few moments.

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit

From Slavery to Freedom: African Americans and Maritime History

Daily, 8:00am – 3:00pm

Massachusetts is at the center of American maritime history. Some of it has been hidden until now. The sea also played a significant role in the history of African Americans who worked in the industry. Maritime fortunes, based in part on slavery, helped found some of our most hallowed institutions. It is a fascinating and neglected story full of surprises and revelations. This special exhibit is on loan from the Commonwealth Museum in Boston, courtesy of the Secretary of State. In the Lobby Gallery, open daily from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Closing March 4, 2022.

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit

Faces of Fall River

Daily, 8:00am – 3:30pm

Meet the people of Fall River's past through a gallery of classic black and white photographs from the textile era. Featured are photos by labor activist/sociologist/photographer Lewis Hine of the immigrant women, men and children who worked the mills that made Fall River the premiere textile city in America. These are the photographs that inspired change in American labor laws and helped abolish child labor.

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit

Tracing the Threads

Daily, 8:00am – 3:00pm

Explore our comprehensive permanent exhibit which celebrates the cultural, ethnic, and industrial history of Fall River. Learn about the waterfalls that shaped the city, enabled its industries, and even gave it its name. Share the stories of the many ethnic groups from around the world who called this city home.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Hwy (Rte. 28), E. Falmouth

School Vacation Week Drop-in Days

Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Come in from the cold and explore our exhibits along with a host of self-guided, hands-on activities including animal puppets, leaf rubbings, crafts, animal life cycles and more. To interact with our newest visitor center exhibits, bring your smart phone or tablet to try out the interactive QR codes which let our researchers answer your questions about what we do here. Families with children will be able to explore the headquarters property with a scavenger hunt and will also be able to pick up a “Grab and Go” bag (while supplies last) with a surprise project to do on your own. Can’t make it Tuesday or Wednesday? You’re welcome to come visit the Reserve any day to enjoy the grounds and the view. Accessible. For more information contact Joan Muller, joan.muller@mass.gov.

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00am – 4:00pm

Explore the natural, cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed in our dynamic exhibits. Next to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water. Wheelchair accessible. Open Presidents’ Day Monday, February 21.

Great Falls Discovery Center

Exhibit: The Northfield Chateau Remembered, Revisited

Jack Nelson presents an architecturally accurate ceramic model of the Northfield Chateau. The exhibit includes photos, artifacts, stories of architect Bruce Price, and owner Francis Robert Schell. Discover how the Chateau evolved over time, a most revered building with decades of memories. View a six-foot panorama photograph taken from the roof of the Chateau in 1906 upon its completion.

Great Falls Discovery Center

Snowy Story Investigation Stations

Discover wildlife neighbors that share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed. Indoor StoryWalks®, habitat exhibit scavenger hunts, and crafts to go. Explore the lives of active and resting winter wildlife. For children 3 and up, accompanied by an adult. Meet inside at the welcome desk.

Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street, Holyoke

Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Explore Holyoke’s industrial history. Exhibits celebrate the city’s rich blend of cultures and people. Special programs are offered year-round. Also located within the park are The Children’s Museum, the restored antique Holyoke Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. For more information or directions, please call (413) 534-1723.

Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Open daily, 9:00am-4:00pm

The Visitor Center is the primary information and orientation site for visitors to Mount Greylock State Reservation. Located within a mix of open fields and woods and offers a spectacular panoramic view south across the Berkshire Hills and the Taconic Mountains. Dynamic exhibits and an orientation film explore the history and nature of the highest point in the Commonwealth. A recreational opportunity here includes an easy 1.8-mile loop hike along the Bradley Farm Interpretive Trail. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. Call 413-499-4262 for more information.

Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Sundays Only

Adventurous quests invite you to search for natural treasures along park trails. Several “seek and find” scavenger hunts available at the Visitor Center for different age and skill levels. Program is self-guided. For children and families.

Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center

Animals in Winter

Explore how animals and birds adapt to the changing seasons. Discover which animals hibernate, migrate, or change appearance. Choose a story book, craft activity, or a take home project. Self-guided activity. For all ages.

Ongoing Resources

Public Skating. Ice skating is a great winter activity for people of all ages and abilities. Many ice-skating rinks have skate rentals and snack concessions. During school vacation week February 21- February 25 public skating hours are 10:00am - 2:50pm.

Self-Guided Opportunities. Visit our self-guided opportunities [page](#) to find a list of:

- Self-Guided Hikes
- Recommended Hikes
 - Introductory hikes for families and children and Signature hikes of that highlight the best park features
- Trip-Tips
 - The DCR **Trip-Tip** provides families with information and fun ideas to explore the great outdoors at DCR Massachusetts State Parks and Watersheds. With a little preparation and a sense of adventure, people of all ages can safely enjoy our beautiful outdoor spaces during the coldest months. Whether at one park, two parks or a multi-day adventure, **Trip-Tip** family adventures offer a variety of opportunities and activities to explore wildlife, woodlands, mountainsides, and the shore!
- Fun in Nature Series
 - Downloadable activities to enhance your experience at any



DCR park! Fun and engaging activities include seek and find scavenger hunts to awaken all of your senses, a conversation starter set to encourage talks along the trail and creating your own story cube to inspire story- telling!
